



President's Address Dr. Don Weasenforth



The TextESL V Board continues to focus on providing professional development to ESL professionals in North Texas. In order to fulfill this and other goals most effectively, the Board has also addressed internal governance issues. In this "state-of-the-organization" address, I report on the issues the Board has addressed, including the many professional development opportunities that await you.

Governance Issues

Incorporation

In response to a suggestion from the TextESOL Council of Presidents, TextESOL V is taking steps to incorporate itself. Incorporation entails filing an application and paying a one-time fee of \$25.00. Benefits of incorporation include:

Political activity/lobbying is allowed with some restrictions.

Board members are shielded from liability for the organization's activities.

Government community development loans may be more accessible.

Structured governance and oversight is required.

Strategic Plan

The TextESOL V Board has completed fleshing out the strategic plan in terms of specific goals. I've asked all Board members to review these goals and will ask for their approval of the goals at our August 4 meeting. I foresee implementation of the goals to begin this fall. I will share with you the approved goals in the next issue of the newsletter and request that they be posted to the TextESOL V website.

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Board Member Duties

Board members have developed a clear, complete enumeration of duties for each Board position. This work has already provided necessary support for recruitment to the 2007-2008 Board. It should also facilitate fulfillment of responsibilities and provide a basis for evaluation in the future. The lists of duties have been added to the TextESOL V bylaws, which is available in this issue of the Newsletter.

Elimination of Webmaster as Board Position

The Board has voted to eliminate the Webmaster position. Board members felt that although managing the website is crucial to the organization, the person overseeing the site need not be involved in other issues addressed by the Board. Also, because managing the website is such an important task, the Board felt that hiring an individual or corporate entity would provide a more consistent quality of oversight than is possible with a volunteer. I recommend your support of this important constitutional change as it promises to strengthen the organization's marketing and recruitment efforts.

TextESOL V remains a strong and vital organization, and I look forward to working with the Board in the future not only to maintain the organization's position, but broaden its influence in assuring the professional status of English language instruction in North Texas. I thank colleagues for their continued support and challenge those who have not participated in affiliate efforts to step up to the plate.

Revisions of Constitution and Bylaws

Please review proposed changes to the TextESOL Constitution noted in this issue of the Newsletter. The Board will request your approval at the business meeting at the 2007 TextESOL V Fall Conference on Saturday, September 29.

Candidates for 2007-2008 TextESOL V Board

Liz Martin, Chair of the Nomination Committee, Yvonne Davault, and Cathy Watkins along with the help of other Board members have recruited an impressive slate of candidates for next year's Board. Please review this slate and lend your support of these colleagues at this year's Fall Conference.

Note that the position of Newsletter Co-editor remains open. Please contact Liz Martin at liz.martin@gpisd.org for a list of duties if you are interested in this important position.

Professional Development Opportunities

2007 TextESOL V Fall Conference

Caroline DeCoux is the chair of this year's Fall Conference and has set the stage for a great event. The conference will be held at Mountain View College, a beautiful and centrally-located campus, on Saturday, September 29. Steve Krashen will be our keynote speaker and will also offer a break-out session in the afternoon. Please read Caroline's article in this issue of the Newsletter for more information.

2007 TextESOL State Conference

The 2007 TextESOL State Conference will be held in Galveston on October 25-28. See the article in this issue of the newsletter. Note that we will be sending our Best-of-Best presenters to this year's State Conference along with the Best-of-Best presenters from the other four TextESOL affiliates. From this group, one presentation will be selected by attendees and recommended for automatic acceptance for TESOL 2008 in New York. Check our TextESOL IV colleagues' website at <http://www.textesolv.org> for continual updates on this great professional development opportunity in such an attractive setting!

2008 TextESOL State Conference

2008 TextESOL State Conference

*Teachers of English:
Stars of Texas*

Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel

November 6-8

Plans for the 2008 TextESOL State Conference are shaping up very well. The 2008 State Conference will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel on October 6-8. Mark your calendars for what will be a memorable event. Bookmark the TextESOL V website (www.textesolv.org) and check for updates starting this fall!

Barbara Dogger, Program Committee Chair, and her committee have confirmed two keynote speakers—Kathleen Kenfield and Carolyn Graham—and are negotiating with TESOL to bring in Sandy Briggs, the current president of TESOL, as a keynote speaker.

Andrea Chaney, Chair of the Registration Committee, and her coordinators have negotiated a contract with Acteva, which provides online registration and payment. Acteva would provide convenience to registrants in the form of easy online registration, immediate confirmation, and the ability to pay online by credit card, check, or purchase order.

Cathy Watkins, Publishers' Liaison Committee Chair, and her committee are considering fee structures to be offered to exhibitors.

Tom Fox, Public Relations Committee Chair, and his team have been devising an effective promotional plan which will be unveiled at the 2007 TextESOL V Fall Conference and set in full motion at the 2007 TextESOL State Conference.

As you can see, the planning committee has already accomplished a lot, promising a well organized, enjoyable, and professionally fulfilling event. This will be a conference you won't want to miss. Please also consider volunteering your time and effort in making this event successful.

2013 TESOL Convention and Exhibit

Although 2013 seems so far away, in less than five years, preparations for the 2013 TESOL Convention, which will take place in Dallas, will begin in earnest. Actually, there's no better time than the present! The Board will continue to maintain a strong membership base from which we can select volunteers who want to support planning and preparation efforts for the Convention. Likewise, the Board will continue to strengthen its financial base in preparation for hosting TESOL 2013.

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To Do List: 2007 TextESOL Conference in Galveston

(All forms available at www.textesoliv.org)

by Joyce Doyle, TextESOL IV Conference Chair

1. Submit Proposal.

Do it this summer while ideas are still fresh. Deadline is August 31, 2007.

2. Make Reservations at The Hilton Island Resort Hotel.

Call 409-744-5000 or 800-475-3386 and give reservation code TTE to receive terrific discount. Ask for room with a view of the beach. Must do this before September 24! (Parking is FREE.)

4. Decide which Pre-Conference Institute and other special activities I want to participate in.

- Thursday morning: All day Pre-Conference trip to *NASA and Kemah Boardwalk*. (Sounds TERRIFIC! \$45 is a great price for all that!)
- Thursday afternoon: Pre-conference institute
- Friday, All-Conference Reception (Free, but to first 500 only.)
- Saturday Awards Luncheon
- Volunteer to help

5. Contact department head about sending in all reservations together on one check.

For every four registrations we pay for, we will receive one free. All registrations need to be in by September 15th to avoid a late fee.

6. Keep checking the website, www.textesoliv.org, for more information about speakers and other conference opportunities as the time gets closer.

7. Buy some sunglasses and good walking shoes for a walk along the beach. Can't wait!



TextESOL V
2007 -2008 Board Nominations
Liz Martin, Member-at-Large

Outgoing Members	Position Served
Zarina Blankenbaker	Past President
Donald Weasenforth	President
Caroline Decoux	President Elect
Mark Ouelette	Treasurer
Cathy Watkins	Membership Officer
Diana Bustillos	Newsletter Editor
Danielle Plauche	Newsletter Co-Editor
Heloiza Carman	Elementary Education Representative
John Wheeler	Higher Education Representative
Yvonne Davault	Adult Education Representative
Josh Atherton	Webmaster
Members continuing in their position	Current Position
Mary Peacock	Secretary
John Drezek	Advertising Manager
Liz Martin	Member-at-Large
Janine Kornegay	Advocacy
Open Nominations	Nominations
Martin Guerra	President-Elect
Melanie Clay	Treasurer
Margaret Redus	Membership Officer
Maggie Spence	Newsletter Editor
	Co-Newsletter Editor
Jayne Lunch	Elementary Education Representative
Cathy Watkins	Secondary Education Representative
John Wheeler	Higher Education Representative
Cindy Brennan	Adult Education Representative



At Wit's End



John Drezek

Retention is a popular word the executive staff likes to toss around on campus, but how do you get that horse to drink? Let me describe "Jack," a 25 year old Asian man who has been in our ESOL program for several years and is not making progress. In the first class he took with me I thought he was a typical student who worked too many hours and simply did not apply himself academically. However, in the next class, I paid more attention to his strengths and areas of development and came to realize he has several serious problems. He reads laboriously and fails to pause or adjust intonation according to punctuation marks. He cannot distinguish between choices on a reading test that are too broad, too narrow or the main idea. He mumbles and/or has a speech impediment in addition to his Asian accent. However, once you decode his utterances, he seems to give accurate answers. I asked if he had difficulty reading in his own language and he assures me he does not. However, when I ask him what and how much he typically reads each day, his answer is ambiguous. He has hinted that he does not have a valid immigration status and is thus ineligible for disability services on campus. Furthermore, I suspect he doesn't have the financial resources to pay for such an assessment on his own.

As his listening skills seemed adequate, I created a set of self-paced reading exercises with text-to-speech software in the hopes that listening while reading would improve his reading skills and perhaps motivate him to put more time and energy into reading in English. He seemed to enjoy the software, but then dropped his classes because of the overtime he was "forced" to work.

Over the years I have developed a rapport with him and encourage him with specific positive feedback at appropriate times with the goal of retaining him and helping him achieve his academic goals. However, he has made zero progress on his state required THEA / Accuplacer test which assesses a student's writing, reading and mathematics skills. Passing the reading exam on one of these two assessments is the pre-requisite before students may enroll in core classes at my college. After five attempts over the last four years, he has scored no higher than 35 on the reading test and a score of 78 is a passing score.

Realizing he may never be able to pass the reading test, I took a different approach and asked what his career goals were. There are a variety of technical certificate programs offered at my college that do not require students to pass the reading test. However, he could not pinpoint any career goals. He said simply, I just want to get my 2 year degree and then start working. Next I suggested he visit our excellent Career Services office so that he could take a variety of assessments to help narrow down his career goals. I walked him to the office and told him I would sit with him and explain the questions and would enter his answers in the computer, but he quickly rejected that offer. Perhaps this arrangement would have embarrassed him. Next I offered to bring a career assessment printed on paper to my office and we could work on it together, but that too was rejected. I have asked about his hobbies and strengths and always get vague answers. Perhaps he is working a great deal and doesn't have much free time.

I am at wit's end with Jack, but not from lack of patience or lack of trying. I don't mind leading him to water, but I can't break through to get him to drink. I would like to tap into our vast network of TESOL educator experience and training in search of someone who might know of a different avenue to try with him. He really is a good, earnest young man who hasn't given up yet. I will not give up as long as he keeps trying. Any sage advice would be greatly appreciated. Please email me at jdrezek@dccd.edu.



MEMBERSHIP

Change of Address



Cathy Watkins

Membership Officer

It's important that TextESOL V be able to communicate with you. If you are moving or changing your e-mail, please update your personal information at this site: <http://iws.ccccd.edu/dweasenforth/TextESOLVAddressUpdate.htm>

After the fall conference in September, you should be able to update personal information on the textesolv.org website.

2006-2007 TextESOL V Board Members



POSITION	NAME
PAST PRESIDENT	Zarina Blankenbaker
PRESIDENT	Donald Weasenforth
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Caroline DeCoux
TREASURER	Mark A. Ouellette
SECRETARY	Mary Peacock
MEMBERSHIP	Cathy Watkins
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Diana Bustillos
NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR	Danielle Plauché
ADVERTISING MANAGER	John Drezek
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Liz Martin
ELEMENTARY ED. REP.	Heloiza Carman
SECONDARY ED. REP.	Magda Schenck
	Jana M. Schaffner
HIGHER ED. REP.	John E. Wheeler
ADULT ED. REP.	Yvonne Davault
ADVOCACY	Janine Kornegay
WEBMASTER	Josh Atherton

Newsletter Subscriptions and Manuscript Submissions



The Tex TESOL V Newsletter is published quarterly by TextESOL V, a Texas affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Subscriptions: Subscriptions to the Newsletter is a benefit of membership to TextESOL V. Information for membership application can be found at textesol.org.

Manuscripts submissions: We welcome your articles, reviews, announcements and comments. Please send your contributions as attached files or cut-and-paste them into an email message to the editor,

Diana U. Bustillos at dbustillos@dcccd.edu or to the co-editor, Danielle Plauché at mail@danielleplauche.com or dep8401@dcccd.edu.

